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SRI T. P. SRINIVASAVARADAN : May I know, Sir, whether the Government propose to take advantage of this loan given by the Central Government for constructing hostels attached to their institutions?

THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM : I do not think this loan is available for Government institutions.

SRI MOHAMED RAZA KHAN : May I know, Sir, whether the opinion of the Madras Government is invited, or they just recommend cases or the priority, whether any institution applies to the Central Government?

THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM : Yes, Sir. Applications pass through us, and we make the recommendation. From the Third Five-Year Plan onwards, money would be made available, and we may make the disbursements.

Conversion of gallons into litres

* 72 *Q.*—DR. A. SREENIVASAN : Will the Hon. the Minister for Industries be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether there has been any increase in the rate of sales tax consequent on the conversion of gallons into litres in respect of the sale of (i) petrol, (ii) diesel oil and (iii) kerosene; and

(*b*) if so, the rate of such increase and the average monthly extra income derived thereby?

THE HON. SRI R. VENKATARAMAN : (*a*) In respect of petrol and diesel oil there has been a slight increase consequent on the introduction of the metric system for the levy of tax under the Madras Sales of Motor Spirit Taxation Act, kerosene is subject to a single point tax under the Madras General Sales Tax Act, 1959, at 5 per cent of turnover and is accordingly not affected by the introduction of the metric system.

(*b*) —

Increase in the rate of tax.	*Estimated additional monthly revenue.*
Petrol 0·641 nP. per litre.	about Rs. 42,000.
Diesel oil 0·301 nP. per litre.	about Rs. 45,000.
Kerosene........does not arise...........	

DR. A. SREENIVASAN : Sir, will the Government consider the desirability of passing on the excess that is collected to the consumer himself?

THE HON. SRI R. VENKATARAMAN : Sir, this matter is coming up for approval by this House. At that time we can discuss all this.

Revision of the scales of pay of teachers

* 73 *Q.*—SRI G. KRISHNAMOORTHY : Will the Hon. the Minister for Finance be pleased to state—

(*a*) when the revision of the scales of pay of teachers in the State took place last;

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(*b*) the cost of living index at the time of such revision; and

(*c*) whether the Government propose to revise the scales of salaries now with reference to the present cost of living index?

THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM : (*a*) A general revision of scales of pay of teachers was made last in 1947.

(*b*) In 1947, the cost of living index stood at 272 (base 1936 = 100).

(*c*) The Madras Pay Commission, 1959-60 has recommended revised scales of pay for teachers. Orders relating to the scales of pay of teachers in Government institutions have been issued. Orders relating to teachers in aided and local body institutions will be issued shortly.

SRI G. KRISHNAMOORTHY : When exactly, Sir, can the orders be expected with regard to the aided institutions?

THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM : I think they should be under issue now, because I was assured that the scrutiny had almost been completed.

SRI G. KRISHNAMOORTHY : Sir, what, in the opinion of the Government, is the minimum living wage for a teacher or anybody in this State?

THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM : I do not think that the hon. Member is entitled to ask for my opinion about it.

Stabilization of food prices

* 74 *Q.*—SRI MOHAMED RAZA KHAN : Will the Hon. the Minister for Finance be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether it is a fact that this Government have made certain suggestions at the recent meeting of the National Development Council with regard to the stabilization of food prices;

(*b*) if so, what they are; and

(*c*) the decisions, if any, taken thereon?

THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM : (*a*) to (*c*) The National Development Council at its meeting held on the 19th and 20th March requested the Chief Ministers of States to forward their suggestions relating to price policy for the Third Plan for consideration at the meeting of the National Development Council to be held on 17th April. The suggestions of the State Governments are now under consideration of a High Level Committee set up by the National Development Council. It is not in the public interest to divulge the nature of the suggestions made by the Government.

SRI MOHAMED RAZA KHAN : Would the Hon. the Finance Minister tell us such of those things which are not in public interest?